

CIGARETTE PAPERS.

By JOSEPH HATTON.

The Man who Came to the Front.
Paris is France; and that is why France so often comes to grief. The capital of the Empire is liable to be run by adventurers. London is not England, nor Washington America, nor Berlin Germany; all the better for those great States. It is in the English provinces that great political movements are formed and general elections won. The reflected opinion of the country comes to help the wisdom of the metropolis. If we in town are more within the immediate influence of international events, if the news of the world and its empire may be said to focus here in the centre, the political thought of the nation is in the country. The mind of London is occupied in many and more varied ways than the provincial mind, and it is less sincere in its convictions, more liable to trim, too often regarding earnestness as bigotry. Men in the country have more time to think and are more resolute in their opinions. It is not London that breeds statesmen, though it trains them and gives them their imperial stage of action. In the present fight you will see that the men who most dominate the national opinion and come out strongest at the poll will be the men who have found their chief education in the country, where Town Councils and Public Boards, Quarter Sessions, and other administrative and governmental institutions, are not only conducted on the best legislative lines, but bring to their members higher honour and greater distinction than belongs to the civic functions and magistracies of London.

Patriotism and Politics.
The Unionism of the day is country bred. It is pure patriotism. Never in history did a handful of politicians and statesmen show more self-disgust than the party that fell away from a dangerous Radicalism and gave their voices to the State. They relinquished office and power, severed the ties of friendship, gave up old associations, accepted contumely and insult from disappointed colleagues, declined office so long as there was a possible chance of reconciliation, on national lines, with their former leaders; and will go down to posterity as types of that personal force in English politics that rises above party. With the disaffection of the most noted Liberal chiefs, reasonable men, who look at affairs from a national standpoint, "set 'em" the days of rancour as between mere Liberal and Tory were at an end; and so in fact they were. The great reforms had been won by Liberal persistence and Tory concession. The wise statesman is he who knows when the time is ripe for change. Unfortunately, however, Professional Agitation never rests. Every concession is but a step to fresh demands; and so at last comes, first the cry for the disintegration of the Empire, and, failing that, "down with the House of Lords!" The inconsistency of a Prime Minister who signalises his last hours of office by creating four new peers, and goes to the country for a mandate to abolish them, can hardly escape censure from the least intelligent elector.

Cabbages and Lord Rosebery.
Indeed this curious topsy-turvydom of policy is the leading point in street controversy where votes are discussed, among working men. "No, I don't know as I'm a 'Tory nor a 'Liberal for that matter." I heard one cabby say to another over his supper at a rest where I was waiting for my favourite bansom," but looks with common-sense in the man I'm goin' to support; when he gets himself in Lord Rosebery's hands or Sir Visto; don't tell me it's principle; it's rot; no man can understand it, let alone a bloomin' voter like me. I ain't much for lords myself, don't find 'em any more liberal over a two-bob fare than an ordinary pson, not half as generous as a hector, but I 'ate a cove as gives you summat you can't lay hold on. Let Rosebery stick to his racin', and if he don't like bein' a lord, why, let him chuck it and say no more about it; then he don't 'ave my vote."

Electioneering Ladies.
Lady canvassers have some curious experiences. At this present election there are more of them in the field than ever. Canvassing is almost as popular as slumming was some years ago with metropolitan ladies. They go to their work in their bravest attire. Mr. Thorpe, in his "Middle Temple Table Talk," tells a good story of a previous election. Lord Rivulet was the candidate, and the charming partner of his joys and sorrows was doing her best to win his election. During her canvass she tackled a sturdy working man who was smoking a short clay pipe, and wearing a Keir Hardie cloth cap. "Won't you vote for Lord Rivulet?" "No, I woan't vote for Lord Rafflet," was the brusque reply; "he's one of them chaps as doesn't get up till 12 o'clock, by which time I've done half a day's work; no, I'll not vote for the kind of man." "Oh, but you are quite mistaken, I assure you; I know that Lord Rivulet gets up quite early!" "How do you know that?" "Because it's his wife." Taking his pipe from his mouth, and donning the Keir Hardie cap, the outspoken voter said, "Well, ma'am, if I was Lord Rafflet I don't think I should get up all day." It was a parallel compliment to the coal-heaver's request, at the great Westminister election, to "Georgia, Duchess of Devonshire. 'Bless your bright eyes, ma'am, let me light my pipe at 'em.' It is said that the beautiful duchess was so delighted with the courteous wit of the man that she would frequently check the adulation that was constantly offered to her charms by saying, "Oh, but after the dustman's compliment all others are insipid!"

In the Vernacular.

Although Scotch critics have lately snubbed Southerners for their professed admiration of novels, mostly in the vernacular, it must be admitted that a touch of the Doric adds a certain curious value to repartee. The Scotchwoman's snub to the over-pious gentleman who said if he was spared he would gladly accept her invitation to dinner answered, "Weel, weel, if you're dead I'll nae expect ye," gets an extra snap in Southern estimation from the "weel" and "nae," just as the testy housekeeper seems to hit the professional tramp all the more briskly on account of her dialect. Ho! Norway.

had a wooden leg, and was begging. When she opened to his knock he began his exordium with "Good woman, I've lost my leg," which she interrupted with the remark as she swung the door to, "Awful ye didnae lose it here." It was a Cockney tourist who met a Scotch lassie walking barefoot to Glasgow. "Do all the people in these parts go barefoot?" he asked. "Fairly they do," was the reply, "an' the rest o' them mind their ain business."

Woman and her Master.

Talking of compliments to women, one of the readiest and best is attributed to George Stephenson. Sitting at a dinner party by the side of a celebrity of the day she turned to him and said, "Mr. Stephenson, I believe you tell me what is the greatest power in Nature?" "Oh, yes," said the famous engineer, "I can tell you that it's a woman's eye; for that can draw a man from the uttermost parts of the earth. There is no other power in Nature can do as much." The New Woman of the day yearns for something better than a feminine influence over man; she must be as equal, wants a vote and rocker-bockers; has got the latter; will soon no doubt have the former; is already pushing man out of his stool, ousting him from his lucrative occupation; and there is talk of a league again the dust of maternity. All this I suppose will right itself; the advanced ladies will quarrel among themselves as Mrs. Besant and the Theosophist have done this week, and the world will go on as usual and a woman's eye retain its original power. Every man is anxious to extend the freedom and privileges of women. If the agitating petticoats would only settle down upon useful reforms of the law there is plenty of good work to do, and one thing is to make it impossible for a married man of means to leave his lawful wife and children penniless. A married man's estate should in part belong to the wife at his death whether he will it or no. I have a case in my mind at the present moment where a rich man through pique has cut out of his will his wife and children, who from a life of comparative luxury have to contemplate a future of poverty. This should not be possible in any civilised country.

Rushlights at Home. Stars in America.
Once upon a time America was a long way from England. Before the cable a newspaper correspondent could have given any London nonentity a reputation in America without his name being as much known in England. It is a common thing even now to find great English artists" starring in the United States who have no title whatever to an English reputation. Americans visiting England have often been staggered by "the eminent American, So-and-So," billed and followed in London without having any claim to American distinction. The responsible correspondents of the American press are mostly men of education and journalistic position. They are not likely to receive their editors or their readers with bogus celebrities; but in these days of personal gossip the outsider and the amateur find it easy to make announcements of their imaginary triumphs. Recently you might have read of certain London successes that were in reality London failures of the praises of London critics, failures of the royal world is apt to be regarded as a mere matter of form.

WINDOW GARDENING.
For the most part rooms are decorated now with foliage plants. Palms, Geraniums, Fuchsias, Aralias, Gravelines, and ferns of various kinds are more pleasant to look upon than flowers, of which there are plenty outside. ADAM.

THE GARDEN.

(WRITER SPECIALISED FOR "THE PEOPLE.")

Mushrooms—Beds in the Open Air.
The mushroom crop at this season very often finds the mushrooms grown in buildings with its lava in the shape of small maggots. It is no uncommon thing to find mushrooms completely ridged by this tiny insect, and of course quite edible. But in a cool and damp climate the mushroom in the fields are sometimes attacked by the fly, therefore there is no escape from it and no means of stamping it out. It is marvelous how these troublesome insects exist from year to year and pass through the severe winter weather, but the manner in which they are fed is the manner most insects are perfectly safe, and remain dormant till the rise of temperature wakes them up. Beds made under the cooling shelter of a north wall will produce freely during the autumn. Open-air beds made up now are generally successful. The mushroom is a wild plant, and the best way to grow it is to plant it in the same place each year. Take 15 inches deep at the back to 12 inches or 15 inches at the front. Get the manure as fresh as can be obtained. When it has lain in a heap and been heated to exhaustion, the virtue has been taken out of it, and it should be noted that the manure is not good for the mushroom bed. Beds made up with the short manure fresh loamy soil at the rate of one bushel of soil to four or five bushels of manure, according to its freshness. If very fresh add one in four, but if not so fresh one in five will be better. Make a whole cell together and plant it in a trench for a day, get warm, but not to heat violently. At the end of a suitable time shake the heap over again and make up the bed. The soil in the bed will prevent overheating and will absorb any gases which in the ordinary course are evolved by fermentation. The bed is turned up, and then the temperature of the bed is firm, and then the temperature of the soil is raised, make the bed firm again, and place 15 in. of soil all over the surface, beat smooth, and scatter some of the long litter over the bed to keep in the heat and moisture. Mushrooms will generally appear, if all goes well, in about six weeks. The bed must be watered, and the litter and piece is on one side and will be useful for covering the bed later on. The mushrooms have much soft food, such as grass and bran mashes, nor yet where the horses are given green. The best manure is that from a brewery or some stable where they are well fed and have plenty of food. When the manure arrives it is to be spread over the ground litter and piece is on one side and will be useful for covering the bed later on. The mushrooms have much soft food, such as grass and bran mashes, nor yet where the horses are given green. 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ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
KEEN BLADES.
By JAMES GREENWOOD,
"THE AMATEUR CASUAL."

CHAPTER II.

It was a most remarkable coincidence! It did not seem possible that the individual, whose real name the loquacious Mr. Appleby had withheld, and Mr. Heckler's own nephew, Caleb Blake, could be one and the same, but the circumstances were miraculously similar.

It was just twelve years ago since he had packed off his rebellious and reprobate young relative, and Melbourne was his port of destination.

What was more singular still, the 27th of November was Caleb's birthday. Again, as affording convincing corroboration, Mr. Heckler well remembered that, to save the expense of a regular outfit, he had some old clothes of his own altered to fit his nephew, whom he had thus got rid of, he trusted, for good and all, having not the least desire to see or hear from his again.

Was it within scope of possibility that this "Mr. Woolley" was his own nephew, Caleb Blake, and that he had made a fortune, and really had returned to England for the purpose talkative Mr. Appleby had explained?

"Pooh! He, the wasteful young spendthrift. Why, up to the very last, provided with his week's pocket-money—eighteenpence—on the Monday, by Tuesday night it would be all gone.

But, still, it is very strange that this "Mr. Woolley," or whatever his real name was, should have a sister residing with her uncle, and that uncle should be in business "somewhere in the south of London." Rotherhithe was in South London! And, as regards making a fortune in a dozen years, a man who was shrewd and a lucky speculator might do that in Australia in half the time.

As for he and his nephew quarrelling, and the latter accusing him of cheating him and his sister out of the money their mother had left them, what was more natural than that, as he grew older and wiser, his nephew should form a better opinion of him.

Ten thousand pounds!

But what a fool he was to admit even the possibility of such a thing. Anyway, the florid letter that was to be written would soon settle the matter. If it was for him, it would be addressed to his old place at Rotherhithe, but it would be promptly forwarded to him.

And it was so forwarded. The letter Mr. Appleby spoke of reached Mr. Heckler within three days from the evening when the story was told in the parlour of the "Crown and Crumpet." And, in effect, was just what that person had foretold.

Enclosed in a flimsy envelope, and written on a very indifferent sheet of notepaper, the letter was humbly and respectfully worded:—

"My dear uncle,—I have to ask your pardon for venturing to address you after so many years' absence and silence, especially as I have nothing to tell you that is likely to afford you either pleasure or satisfaction.

"I have been most unfortunate since my misbehaviour caused you to ship me off to Australia. I entreat you to believe me when I say that I have endeavoured to do my best, but I have had nothing but bad luck, and at the present time am as poor almost as it is possible for a man to be.

"As you will see by this, I am now in London, but have no intention of staying here. I have for years been longing to see you and my dear sister Martha once more, and having been offered a job on board a vessel bound for England and back to Melbourne again, have availed myself of the opportunity of having my ardent wish gratified. Let me beg of you, so far to forgive your young nephew as to invite him to come and pass a few days under the same roof with yourself and my beloved sister. I ask for nothing else. Pray, do not refuse me."

"Your penitent nephew,
CALEB BLAKE."

Old Mr. Heckler was growing infirm, and rheumatism had affected a permanent settlement in his left leg; nevertheless, having perused his nephew's letter, Martha being busy in the kitchen, he cut a few small nimble capers on the parlour hearth, that his niece would certainly have thought he had gone out of his mind had she beheld him.

"Ha! ha! What a fortunate thing it was that he happened to be present when that chattering magpie told his story. He had been of a mind not to go to the "Crown and Crumpet" that evening, the rheumatism being so bad, and what might not he have lost had he stayed away?

"He! he! Yes, "the cunning old card" won't certainly know how to make his men! It would be the first time if he failed in that particular, has the getting of only a few were involved.

in this instance, £5,000 were at Five! Ten thousand. The of the money might be equally between himself and his niece, Caleb gone back to Australia, only to manage affairs for Martha herself, it might not be difficult to

avaricious old gentleman had not one word of this aloud, but his niece at that moment combed his hair, he audibly upturn cut short his guilty cogitation. When Martha presently entered the parlour, he appeared quite over-tender emotions, and there were his eyes. And, as he still held in his hand, she anxiously in-

Was anything amiss, and had lived bad news?

my dear girl," Mr. Heckler made in agitated accents, "I cannot tell the news I have received by word. I have heard from your Martha. From poor Caleb."

uttered a little cry of dismay, looking at the envelope in her hand, and seeing that it was not her, she hoped the worst, at all had not happened. "Is he ill, unde?" she asked tearfully. "Oh, poor Caleb, and he so many, many miles away."

"Nay, my dear niece, he is neither ill nor far away," Mr. Heckler replied, coolly; "he is well, and soon at hand,

I am pleased to inform you. True, he is poor. With that candour and straightforwardness that is part of his nature, he acknowledges that it is so, and I am delighted to hear it."

Martha opened her eyes wide. "Do lighted to hear that he is poor, uncle?" "Truly so, my dear niece. It is selfish of me, I know, but I cannot deny it. I am delighted, because it enables me to succour and assist him. And there is nothing in the world would give me greater satisfaction."

Martha's eyes opened wider still. She knew Mr. Heckler perhaps better than anyone else did, and his peculiar vein of sneering when it pleased him to exercise it. She likewise was aware—as, indeed, she had been for years past afraid to mention in his hearing. Putting this and that together, what could it mean but that her uncle's present mood was his most bitter sarcastic one.

"If I could but feel sure, dear uncle, that you were in earnest, she began. But with a protesting gesture he interrupted her.

"I never was more in earnest in my life, my good girl, though, perhaps, it may surprise you to hear me say so. Most likely you have had it in your mind all along that I dislike Caleb, and had not forgiven him the few boyish pranks he used to play me before he went away. Tell me, now, candidly, is that not the case?"

"Well, I must admit, uncle, that at times—" "Aye, I knew it," and he patted her shoulder affectionately; "and you have no doubt likewise thought that I have sometimes been harsh and unkind towards you."

"Thought! Did she not have a dozen proofs of it every day of her life. She dare not say so, however. But the ingenuous old gentleman saved her the embarrassment of saying anything.

"Right again; I knew it. Now, let this be a lesson to you, my dear Martha, never to judge others too hastily. If I have, at times, seemed impatient with you, it has been for your good. Had I made no disguise of the affection I have always felt for you, it might have made you less careful in pleasing me, and we should not have got along as pleasantly as we have through so many years. And it has been much the same as regards our dear Caleb. Often and often I should like to have had a long talk with you about him, but could not trust myself to begin for fear of breaking down and making myself look foolish. I have, therefore, thought it best to avoid the subject altogether."

Martha could scarce credit the evidence of her ears, but he spoke so earnestly, and allowed his long-concealed good nature such free play in the twinkle of his eyes and smiling features, that the impulse—for Caleb's sake, much more than her own—to throw her arms round her uncle's neck and kiss him, was irresistible.

"But my dear brother—what does he tell us, uncle?" "Read for yourself, my good girl, from beginning to end, and you shall advise me as to what has best be done."

She had to wipe her eyes more than once while she perused the melancholy epistle, but at last she mastered it.

"Oh, uncle, dear," and her arms were round the old man's neck again. "You will not deny him! You will let him come!"

The generous old gentleman laughed outright at that. "Let him come! Why, you silly goose, what have I been telling you? Let him come, indeed! Aye, that he shall, though as ragged as a beggar and as poor. We will soon alter all that. We will have him with us, Martha, and if we can't make him happy, it will be no fault of ours. I will write back to him this very afternoon, and you shall enclose a little note of your own writing, Martha, telling him how happy you have been ever since you last saw him, and assuring him of a hearty welcome."

"You did me injustice, Caleb," returned Mr. Heckler with emotion. "I am a man who speaks least of that which he has most at heart. There sits your sister, and she will corroborate me. I have not mentioned your name a dozen times during all the twelve years that have elapsed since we parted, but I may truthfully say that there has not been a night but that, before I closed my eyes to sleep, I—was, but there, talk about it? It was a Christian duty, and I did not neglect it. You should have written to me, Caleb, my boy. That's where you have been wrong."

"So I should have done, uncle, but I could not forget what passed between us on the eve of our separation, and the hard things we said of each other."

"Aye, aye. Things that I regretted before your ship was fairly out of port. But we will think no more of that. We will be happy together, as long as you stay; as happy as Martha and I have always been since she has shared my home. You have wanted for nothing, I believe, my dear niece."

Had he made the same remark to Martha but a couple of days before, she would have replied, plump and plain, that as he knew perfectly well, instead of wanting for nothing, in a general way she needed almost everything that could be mentioned, and was likely to go on needing them. But she was now a clever one. Having once committed herself in writing to the statement that I have been treating her kindly, she can't well back out of it afterwards."

Caleb Blake had not apprised his uncle of his exact address, but intimated that a communication sent to "C.O.B., care of Post Office, Dock Street, Shadwell," would reach him. Mr. Heckler chuckled as he inscribed this direction on the envelope.

"He little dreams that I know all about it. Of course he wishes me to infer that, being so poor, he is staying at some hole-and-corner common lodging-house, the whereabouts of which he is ashamed to make known. Where-as he, no doubt, is a honoured guest at some first-class hotel. I wonder how he will manage as to his poverty-stricken disguise. But that is his business. Mine is to receive him with open arms, even though he comes here ragged as a crossing-sweeper."

CHAPTER III.

The letter of invitation was posted on the Wednesday afternoon, and before ten o'clock next morning Mr. Heckler, peering through the slate of the parlour blind, saw a meanly-clad figure unstack the garden gate and meekly approach the house, not by the front door, but by the side one, where the kitchen was.

Old Mr. Heckler grinned. "He is making a good beginning, but I must allow Martha to have the first word with him." And he hastened from the parlour, and was ready to open the side door the moment he heard a modish tickle of the bell.

Poor, and well-nigh penniless, Caleb Blake had described himself as being, and he looked it. His boots were broken, his jacket dilapidated, his trousers patched at the knees and frayed at the bottom. He was sorely in need of a shave. His battered, old hard fate had not happened. "Is he ill, unde?" she asked tearfully. "Oh, poor Caleb, and he so many, many miles away."

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joyful recognition, held him in a close embrace.

"My dear Caleb, my long lost relative. Welcome, a hundred times welcome. Oh, how we have been longing to see you."

"This is more than I dared hope for," returned the poor wanderer huskily, and at the same time brushing a tear from his cheek with the back of his hand. "You are too generous, my dear uncle. I am undeserving of such a greeting."

"Now, not another word in that strain, you foolish fellow, or we shall quarrel. My dear niece," he called out. "He has arrived; he is here; oh, this in indeed a happy day!" And as Martha came running in, good old Mr. Heckler went out, but before brother and sister had done hugging and kissing he was back again, the bearer of cake and wine.

Poor Caleb appeared quite bewildered at his warm, dry, red-hot reception. "A little plain food and drink, dear uncle, would, I think, be better for me now. The fact is, I had no money to buy me a breakfast this morning."

"Pooch, drink it down, lad—a full glass of it. It is good, ripe old port, and can't hurt you. That's well. Now come with me, and we will see if we can't make some improvement in your dress, while our busy Martha prepares you a comforting meal."

"It was no use Caleb protesting that he had no desire to put his uncle to such trouble. The old gentleman would have his way. He lent his nephew his shaving tackle, he provided him with one of his best shirts, and would hear of nothing else than that Caleb should fasten it.

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would take no denial, and, with Caleb neatly attired as when he arrived at the house, they set out together.

They were walking through Leadenhall-street, and in the act of passing one of the great shipping offices, when a gentleman, with bushy red whiskers, and wearing a captain's gold-banded cap, and who was standing on the office steps, stared at them. Not satisfied with that, he came after them, and touching Caleb on the shoulder, caused him to look round.

"Why, bless my soul, my dear Caleb, that you must be so little delay. You don't mean to say, my dear Caleb, that you must be so soon bid us good-bye?"

"I could help it, should not be so, but other business I have is pressing, and will occupy most of my time between this and when my ship leaves the docks. But though I never see you again, so long as I live, sir, I shall always have you in grateful remembrance."

"And I," returned Uncle Heckler, offering his nephew his extended hand, "shall ever be at your disposal. Sit down, my boy, sit down, and let us have a half-hour's quiet talk before you go, at any rate. Shall I call Marthas in?"

"I don't think it will be necessary, uncle; I have already bid her good-bye, and she is naturally much cut up, poor girl."

A curious and remarkable alteration in the expression on old Mr. Heckler's face took place while his nephew was speaking.

"Oh, you have already bid your sister good-bye!" he remarked after a pause. Then, brightening a little, he added, "Aye, aye

OUR OMNIBUS.

PIPER PAN.

Although the many efforts made to establish a permanent orchestra in London have, so far, proved failing, it is quite certain that orchestral concerts have been the chief success of the musical season now coming to a rapid termination. Whether this has been brought about by the advent of so many foreign conductors, and the immense attraction which Wagner's music undoubtedly possesses for musicians, I cannot say. But there is no disputing the fact that the great Bayreuth composer's works have been largely represented in almost every orchestral programme during the last six months. Considering that they have been chiefly performed under the direction of his countrymen and warmest disciples, it is not surprising that they have been marvellously well executed on nearly every occasion.

Music-lovers have not, however, only been treated to splendid performances of Wagner's compositions. They have had new and stirring interpretations of older and more familiar works. If the fresh "readings" have not always been correct according to our ideas, they have certainly possessed the charm of novelty. One cannot help feeling grateful to Dr. Hans Richter, Herr Felix Mottl, Herr Levi, and Herr Nikisch for waking us up, as it were, by the magnetism and soulfulness of their conducting to the "exquisite beauty of works to which the 'traditional' renderings had more or less dulled our ears."

Dr. Richter was the first great director of music to enlighten us regarding the real art of conducting, and it is chiefly owing to the great success obtained by his concerts here that the distinguished musicians named above have visited London. Dr. Richter is, no doubt, the most gifted of them all, but some of them follow very closely in his footsteps. Each has a striking individuality which seems to exercise a powerful influence over the instrumentalists whom they direct, and, I think, has a good deal to do with the success obtained.

It seems hard that the free chairs at the musical performances in the parks have to be abolished because of a lot of noisy children. It appears that instead of the seats being utilised by poor persons who wished to hear the excellent music provided, they have been monopolised by a number of the more youngish who constituted the place a playground and sang songs of their own choice oblivious to the charm of the classical and sacred selections performed by the bands. The Parks Committee has now decided to make charge of one halfpenny for the chairs, and this will probably put an end to the discord caused by the young ragamuffins.

It is pleasing to learn that at the annual meeting of the Royal College of Music, at which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided, the report of affairs was highly satisfactory. The report for the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music was also good. Both meetings took place at Marlborough House, and after the proceedings a cordial vote of thanks was passed to his royal highness for presiding.

M. Paderewski, who is one of the most kind-hearted of men, found time before he left London to hear five pianoforte pupils of Mr. Michael Hambourg play. The famous pianist highly complimented the young students on the great progress they had made under their master. M. Paderewski is patron and honorary examiner to Mr. Hambourg's Academy for the higher development of pianoforte playing.

I am afraid that we shall not after all have the proposed symphony concert by the Saxe-Coburg Company at Drury Lane. The last five operatic performances are announced, but no mention is made of any other form of entertainment.

The favourite songs, "She Wandered Down the Mountain Side," "The Sands of Dee," and the ever-charming, "I'll Sing the Songs of Araby," are the compositions chiefly associated with the name of the late Frederic Clay; but he did a good deal in writing music for plays, pantomimes, and operettas. One of the latter, "Happy Arcadia," has been chosen to form part of the programme of the German Reed entertainment which re-opens at St. George's Hall on Monday.

The last Sunday afternoon concert of the present series will take place at the Queen's Hall on July 14, and the season of promenade concerts, to which I have before alluded, will commence on Aug. 10. Those of my readers who possess exceptionally good voices and can read well at sight may be interested to know that a series of oratorio performances is projected for the autumn. Mr. Handegee is now re-organising the Queen's Hall Choir, to which admission can only be obtained by virtue of the qualifications just mentioned.

Mr. Henschel's choir is also being arranged for the autumn. Ladies and gentlemen desirous of joining should apply to the secretary, Mr. Stedman, 58, Berners-street, W. By the bye, Mr. Henschel and his accomplished wife expect shortly to visit America, where the clever musician will probably conduct a performance of his "Stabat Mater."

The proposed performance of "Romeo et Juliette" at Windsor Castle by Sir Augustus Harris's Company has been altered to "Carmen." Sir Augustus found it would be well nigh impossible to perform the former opera owing to the requirements at Covent Garden, and her Majesty has therefore graciously consented to a representation of Bizet's sparkling work in its place. Madame Calvè will impersonate the title-role, and the opera will be performed on Tuesday, instead of Monday.

It is said that to the fashionable craze for bicycling amongst ladies musical instrument makers are suffering considerably. It is not a pianoforte or violin for which the benefits and paterfamilias of the present day are solicited—a safety or a tandem is the article for which wives and daughters crave.

I am pleased to say that there is no truth in the statement that Herr Meyer Lutz intends retiring from the musical profession. The veteran conductor is in full possession of all his powers, and willing to accept engagements as conductor, composer, arranger, pianist, &c.

The Gorring Thomas Scholarship will be competed for at the Royal Academy of Music on Sept. 25. The scholarship will be awarded to the composer of the best operatic work for the stage, and the successful candidate will be entitled to three years' free musical education at the Royal Academy of Music. I believe that I stated some months ago that the scholarship was founded, by subscription, in memory of the deceased composer, Arthur Gorring Thomas, who died in 1892.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Mr. Trevor-Battye, about whose safety on Kolnvenge such grave fears were entertained some few months ago, has just published an account of his experiences on that island ("Icebound on Kolnvenge," Constable and Co.). The volume has interpersed in its 458 pages numerous natural history notes of very great interest. In the preface he makes special mention of his dog, by whom the means of living were often found. One chapter is devoted to a description of a gosse

catch which must indeed be a wonderful sight. When the moulting season commences and the birds are not strong on the wing, the Samoyeds, who visit the island, drive the geese towards a net previously set down at the edge of the water. The geese as they were being driven towards the trap, Mr. Battye says, could be seen in thousands, and "the very earth seemed geese," and he "could never have believed it possible that so many geese could be had on one island." When the geese of the first catch were counted they numbered 3,322 birds.

On one occasion Mr. Battye saw a seal hunting for ducks. A group of these birds will be supplied by Mr. Brandon Thomas, in collaboration with Mr. Clement Scott? If it is true, this will not be the first occasion on which Mr. Scott's name has been on the Adelphi bills. He joined with Mr. E. Manuel in writing "The Crimson Cross," which was played at the Adelphi in 1875. He has been accustomed to collaboration. He wrote with Mr. Manuel "The Detective" (1875), with Mr. B. C. Stephenson "Diplomacy" and "Peril," with Mr. Sims "Jack in the Box" with Mr. Wilson Barrett "Sister Mary."

So far as I know, Mr. Clement Scott has never submitted to playgoers a piece wholly out of his own head. His pieces called "On the Line," "Tears, Idle Tears," "The Last Lily," are, I believe, all adaptations. His name was mentioned in connection with the adaptation called "Bad Boys," but I fancy he repudiated any such association, though I am not sure. Was he not also part-adaptor of "Woman and the Law"? Whether a dramatic critic should enter into competition with the dramatists whose works he criticises, is a question on which opinions differ.

Mr. Willard is said to have engaged a American actor to take a part in "Alabama," the American piece with which Mr. Willard proposes to re-open the Garrick in September. The player in question is a thorough competent one, but if one of the parts in "Alabama" is to be assigned to an American performer, why should not all be thus assigned? I am assuming that all the characters in "Alabama" are Yankee. If they are, they should be played all by Yankees, or all by Englishmen—one or the other. An admixture of English and Yankee, I should say, would result only in a muddle. But we shall see.

I have just made the acquaintance of an exciting short story called "A Sensational Trance," described as by Forbes Dawson. I presume the author is the well-known comedian so named, who lately has taken rather to write dramas than to act in them.

clubs on Tuesday next, when all anglers will be heartily welcomed.

The annual dinner of the Acton Piscatorial Society proved an unqualified success. Mr. J. P. Hope presided, and Mr. F. N. Sellers was in the vice-chair. Mr. W. H. Brougham responded to the toast of the T.A.P.S., and Mr. W. H. Jackson, in replying for the visitors, took occasion to repudiate the aspersions cast upon the authorities in reference to the so-called illegal netting. The company warmly applauded, and a most harmonious and enjoyable evening was spent by all.

I last week recorded the taking of a tortoise by "Johnny Osborne" when roach fishing at Southgate. By an extraordinary coincidence a precisely similar reptile was caught by another angler under the same circumstances, and in the same place, on the occasion named, but how two persons apparently fishing the same pond should, each unknown to the other, capture such a creature, is one scarcely wants to solve. My present correspondent assures me he doubts the accuracy of "Johnny's" statement, and has good reason to believe one tortoise only was taken. It will give me much pleasure to hear "Johnny's" explanation, which it is devoutly to be hoped will satisfy all parties.

GENERAL CHATTER.

The letter from "A Volunteer," headed "No old soldiers need apply," which appeared in our issue of the 30th ult., has elicited quite a voluminous correspondence. Most of the writers make the same complaint, that retired soldiers do not stand on as good a footing as young civilians when seeking employment. Others, while admitting that this is the case, defend the repugnance of some employers to engage old soldiers on the ground that Tommy Atkins is, as a rule, a confirmed grumbler. That he growls a bit when his back is put up may not be disputed, but his wrath quickly subsides, thanks to his disciplined habit of taking the rough with the smooth in all the affairs of life. It speaks eloquently for these deserving men that employers who have once made trial of their services hardly ever look elsewhere to supply vacancies in their establishments.

There is a curious anomaly in connection with the law regulating off-licences. These definitely lay it down that when drink is sold under their provisions it must not be consumed on the premises. Apparently, therefore, it may be consumed when taken away off the premises. Here, however, the law comes down with a peremptory negative; it insists that any drink purchased at these houses shall be carried away a certain distance before human lips touch it. A publican at Penkridge was fined the other day because some labourers to whom he had sold beer slaked their thirst with it under a hedge on the connoisse side of the road. He vainly pleaded that he had not control over his wares when once they left his premises; the bench decided that the law took the opposite view.

Contrast this strangeness with the laxity of the law towards drinking clubs. At these places drink can be consumed at any hour, day or night, on or off the premises. I myself have seen members coming away from clubs late at night with bottles in their hands from which they refreshed themselves from time to time. On one occasion I came upon an intrepid individual sitting on the ground with his back to a wall, who pressed me to stop and have a drink from a whisky bottle he was fondling. "Nothing to pay, guv'nor," he exclaimed, and then went on with a speech addressed to "Mister chairman and gentle-

men." At Aston the other day, the bench expressed great regret that the law did not allow flagging to be administered to offenders convicted of using loathsome language in the public streets. But, although the three magistrates had the power, they nevertheless deemed a shilling due a sufficient punishment in a peculiarly abominable case of the sort which came before them. It is really a hideous scandal and a reproach to England that decent people cannot go out for a stroll without having their ears assailed by beastly or blasphemous language.

The tidal water has yielded quantities of fish during the past week, and in the Upper Thames, considering the weather, excellent sport has been had. Mr. Burgess, fishing from the bank at Hampton Court, took two barbel of 6lb. each, and a handsome roach of 17oz.; and Mr. Budd has had a number of fine roach from Hampton Deep, some of them scaling 1lb. each. Some capital chub have been taken at Shepperton, and one of 4lb. at Kingston. Bream have been feeding well, and fair sport is reported at every wharf.

I wish I could speak as well of the Lea as of the Thames. A few good fish have come to grief in various places, the most notable being a roach of over 4lb., taken by Mr. Baldock at Ware. Sport has not been quite so good lately at the Welsh Harp, but some fair baskets of roach have been had. Bream have been feeding freely at Dagenham, and a historic resort frequented by many anglers.

I am indebted to a Californian correspondent for the following account of the homing instinct in the cat:—I once badly needed a cat, and the best offer I could get was a litter of four kittens—the mother being an invaluable mouser was not to be parted with. However, she was finally included in the bargain. Cat and kittens were placed in a covered box and driven 17 miles in a wagon. The family took kindly to their new home, and for nearly two months all went well. After this time the former owner asked that the mother might be returned. When the time to start arrived puss could not be found, she had been missing since the previous evening. When driving again to the place she originally came from I was told that she had appeared the day after I lost her. This story seems to show how fine is the line between instinct and reason. Pussie stayed with her kittens until she reasoned that she had educated them to an age of independence, and then yielded to the "homing instinct."

The additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the week ending July 9 were a small bill mynah, two plumed ground doves (hatched in the Gardens), four common chameleons, Campbell's monkey, a spiny-tailed monitor, a Japanese deer (brought in the Gardens), a brown capuchin, an Egyptian urticaria (lizard), a rough-skinned snake, a yellow-billed need-beak, and a wapiti deer (born in the Gardens). The shaggy bill is a perfectly white bird about the size of a pheasant. Its home is in the Falkland Islands, and is seldom exhibited alive in our zoological collections. A specimen of this bird was captured last year off the coast of Ireland, but was supposed to have been an escaped bird.

THE ACTOR.

What has become of the matinée in aid of the Theatrical Choristers which was to have taken place at the Gaiety on Wednesday last? Has it shared the fate of the matinée for Mrs. Broughton, and been postponed sine die? Mrs. Broughton, I gather, is to have a subscription made for her; now, what about the Theatrical Choristers, a very deserving body of people? Many of them, I should say, must be in some distress just now, for comic opera are not, and "comedies with music" do not require much in the way of a chorus.

It will be very pleasant to see "The Corse Brothers" again. When did we have it last? If I am not mistaken, it is just a little over four years since it was done at the Lyceum, with Mr. Terrell as Chateau Renaud, Mr. Macklin as Montgivrou, poor Wenman as Orlando, and Miss Annie Irish as Emilia d'Esparre. Miss Julia Arthur, Sir Henry Irving's new American recruit, is to be, I believe, the Emilia de l'Esparre this time, and very good, I expect, she will be. Not that the character counts for much. The two Dei Franchi are the play.

It is so like Sir Henry that he should wind up what to most people would have been an exhausting series of revivals with an elaborate reproduction of "Macbeth." Fancy releasing, much less playing, "Macbeth" in the midst of a temperature like the present! But Sir Henry is indomitable. No amount of work seems to tire him. This, probably, is because he is so thoroughly master of his trade. He has everything at his fingers' ends. I do not think any man ever lived so completely for his art as Sir Henry has always done.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

The Phe Panscra-
Pancreas visit

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Another truly energetic man is Mr. Daly. catch which must indeed be a wonderful sight. When the moulting season commences and the birds are not strong on the wing, the Samoyeds, who visit the island, drive the geese towards a net previously set down at the edge of the water. The geese as they were being driven towards the trap, Mr. Battye says, could be seen in thousands, and "the very earth seemed geese," and he "could never have believed it possible that so many geese could be had on one island." When the geese of the first catch were counted they numbered 3,322 birds.

On one occasion Mr. Battye saw a seal hunting for ducks. A group of these birds will be supplied by Mr. Brandon Thomas, in collaboration with Mr. Clement Scott? If it is true, this will not be the first occasion on which Mr. Scott's name has been on the Adelphi bills. He joined with Mr. E. Manuel in writing "The Crimson Cross," which was played at the Adelphi in 1875. He has been accustomed to collaboration. He wrote with Mr. Manuel "The Detective" (1875), with Mr. B. C. Stephenson "Diplomacy" and "Peril," with Mr. Sims "Jack in the Box" with Mr. Wilson Barrett "Sister Mary."

Col. Clitheroe (the father, I believe, of the present owner) was a well-known Middlesex magistrate, and was the first chairman of the committee of Hanwell Asylums. A portrait of him by the elder Pickersgill hangs in the board-room of that institution." Other correspondents have conferred a similar obligation on my readers.

Electioneering art is lifted to a quite higher level by the excellent set of cartoons now being issued by Messrs. Henderson and Spalding, Marblebone-lane. Not only is the drawing admirably spirited and free, but the artist (Tom Merry) has hit off all the principal portraits with marvellous fidelity. Of course, the hitting at Radicalism is hard and straight, but for all that, there is plenty of good humour. Six out of the set of nine cartoons are coloured, and can be obtained at the Conservative Central Office, St. Stephen's Chambers, Westminster; the other three, in black and white, are to be had at 5, Victoria-street, Westminster.

MADAME.

Amongst the many nice materials from which we may choose for our summer gowns a charming fabric is a new make of lawn. It is something like very fine holland, and is covered all over the surface with large coloured spots. A most effective way to make it up is to have the bodice in self-coloured lawn to match the spots, the wide sleeve puffs being of the spotted lawn. A charming method of arranging the bodice drapery is to have it in soft folds at each side of a pretty vest front in some pale shade of the same colour as the spots. A lawn spotted with deep mauve would look well with a vest of very pale mauve.

Of course, the pale shade must be chosen in the same tone of colour as the dark. This material will either wash or clean beautifully, and is so dresy looking it may be worn on quite festive occasions.

Some very smart coat and skirt costumes are being turned out in white alpaca. The skirts for these costumes are cut in a round full shape, with a close fit above and moderately full below, in every case, the skirt is short enough to keep well clear of the ground. A stiff inter-lining at the hem is necessary to prevent it from clinging uncomfortably round the feet. There is a delightfully cool appearance about white alpaca, or, indeed, of any kind, that is most refreshing to the eye on a broiling summer day.

The coats to go with these costumes are specially smart and stylish looking. They are cut to fit the figure with rather short, full basques. The basques are rounded in front, and are so gored that they set out in full folds at the back; the open front runs back with pretty shaped revers. A decidedly good effect is obtained when the revers are faced with silk in some pretty pale shade of colour, the same silk being used for cuffs to the wide-topped sleeves. A costume of white alpaca, made as I have described, looks charming with a vest of black satin trimmed with white lace inset.

White we are on the subject of alpaca I must tell you of a very nice new variety of that popular material, known as alpaca lustre! It is to be had in all the fashionable pale shades, and makes up most stylishly. A gown I much admired had the skirt of this material, with a bodice of green lawn, some of the green lawn being introduced into the skirt with remarkably good effect.

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The colour of the alpaca lustre was a beautifully soft shade of pale pink. A pleasing touch was given to the round full-shaped skirt by the introduction at the left side of a panel of accordeon-pleated green lawn. The panel was set into the skirt a little below the waist; it was very narrow at the top, but widened out gradually at the foot. A rosette bow of pale pink satin ribbon was placed at the top of the panel. The skirt was further trimmed by five loops of pink satin ribbon running downwards at each side of the front.

The bodice was entirely composed of green lawn. It was made in the form of a tight-fitting blouse, with short pointed basques. Three sets of four narrow tucks went down the front of the bodice. Between each set of tucks a band of pale pink ribbon was placed, covered with open-work embroidery. The neck had a full ruffle of black chiffon, with rosette bows of pink ribbon. The long cuffs to the wide-topped sleeves were of pink silk to match the ribbon, covered with open-work embroidery. A rosette bow of pink ribbon was placed on each sleeve where the ruff ended.

White lace veils are immensely fashionable this season. Those made of good net are really the most economical, but as the best of net soils all too soon it may prove a useful hint to those of my readers who go in for wearing white lace or net veils to tell them how to clean them—a process, by the way, much better carried out at home than by the laundress. Wash the veil by rinsing it up and down in a lather of tepid soap and water. When the soil has all disappeared rinse the soap well out. To stiffen the net, dissolve a little lump sugar in clear cold water, and carefully pin the net or lace out to dry.

Muslim gowns worn over colour are very fashionable this summer. Sometimes the muslim is quite plain, or it may be covered with a pattern of tiny blossoms or coloured spots. A pretty finish to the skirt of a muslim gown is to have a flounce either of the muslim or lace. A gown of clear muslim, patterned with red spots over a red lining, looks very stylish if flounced and trimmed on the bodice with black lace. Knotted red ribbon mixed with the lace have a good effect.

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THE THEATRES.

COVENT GARDEN OPERA.

In former times matters operatic have been largely affected by any sudden turn in the events which control the world of fashion, but the present season at any rate proves an exception to the rule, and it may fairly be held that the advance in musical taste is bringing about a much needed change in this respect. Despite the fact that the country is in the thick of a general election, the opera season goes on as if nothing unusual was passing, and, more than that, within three weeks of the close of Covent Garden, when it might be expected that the interest of opera-goers was decidedly waning, six Augustus Harris brings forward what can be termed "another trump card" with Calve in "Carmen." It was refreshing to see how the public appreciated the circumstance; the great house was crowded to overflowing, and hundreds were turned away on Wednesday night; indeed, there was more full clapping at the box-office than when Fatti reappeared, for then no one thought it worth while to journey to Covent Garden on the slight chance of buying a seat, whereas many had failed to appreciate the great and deserved popularity of Madame Calve. It is in works of dramatic force that Calve stands forth as the incomparable artist, and there is no rôle which so displays her wonderful method and suits her vocal and physically to such perfection as that of the wilful and heartless Carmen. What a contrast between the conception of the character as represented by Bellincioni, with a knife ever ready to strike and an uncheck'd temper overmastering all light love and sentiment, and that given by Calve, wherein real tenderness allied to all the seductive arts is the weapon of the fascinating cigarette maker. Both renderings of this attractive part are equally plausible up to a certain point, but it is in the final scenes that Calve's Carmen proves itself the more "logical creation" in the sense that Don José's passion and jealousy are actually stimulated by all the wiles of wooing and by the most cruel jilting. How winning and attractive Madame Calve was in the first and second acts need not be stated, nor is it necessary to record with what voluptuous charm she sang the Habanera, but if criticism is offered it must be to take exception to the singer's growing habit of addressing all she has to say to the audience rather than to those dramatically concerned. Madame Melba, who, with the instincts of a real artist, was content to appear as Michaela, showed how our greatest soprano could infuse interest into a part usually assigned to second-rate vocalists. Bisié wrote some of his sweetest music for the gentle peasant girl, although we rarely hear it properly rendered. With the aid of M. Alvarez, who makes so distinguished a Don José, the dust "Mia madre lo rivedo" was given with great beauty of expression, and "Io dico no" was sung in a superb manner. Madame Melba's voice is more perfect each time she sings. Escamillo did not gain much in the hands of M. Alvarez, whose voice has a peculiar "woolliness" of tone which fails to make it "carry," and the Toreador song for once lost the customary encore. Signor Bevignani conducted, he did earlier in the week when Donizetti's tuneful but tame "Lucia di Lammermoor" was given. Madame Melba was the Lucia, a part she first essayed at Covent Garden more than half a dozen years ago. At that time there were vocal faults which marred a remarkable performance, but now her voice is the voice of the finished artist, and the style that of the refined actress. A little more warmth with more dramatic intensity, and the Australian prima donna would stand without a rival. It must be admitted that in the mad scenes Madame Melba was particularly forceful, but the singer never merged in the actress—there was no getting away from the purely vocal effort. Signor Vignas was efficient as Edgardo, but was late in making an important entry, so that the chorus denounced what should have been an unwelcome appearance in his absence. Signori Pessina and Armondi were the Enrico and the Radomiro in an interesting if uninspiring performance.

DRURY LANE.

Whatever may be the opinion as to the capacity of the members of the Saxe-Coburg Company no exception can be taken to the character of their repertoire, which is sufficiently varied to range from "Die Fledermaus" to "Fidelio," and from "Der Wildschut" to "Der Freischütz." It is unnecessary to repeat the story on which the opera is founded, that of Zamiel, the demon hunter who vouchsafed the aid of magic bullets as the price of a human soul. Unless the unhappy mortal could bring another victim into the power of the evil one on the same fatal terms life was forfeited. The part of Caspar pledged by the unholy compact was taken last night by Herr Jeni, who neither as singer nor actor lent much distinction to the sinister character. Herr Buttner was Ottocar, the young lover who in his desire to carry off honour with his wife nearly falls into the power of Caspar and the demon huntsman, who, with all the pantomime glory of red light, roamed about the stage in most distressing fashion. Herr Buttner, too, a robust tenor, was not free from faultiness of intonation, but of the whole his performance was not acceptable, while Herr Richardi as Kuno the singer did not add to accuracy of pitch in the concerted numbers. Herr Mahling, one of the most useful members of the German Company, efficiently filled the small part of Kilius, while the chief female roles were well sustained by Fraulein Wassilewits and Fraulein Altona. Herr Langert conducted, and although there was a lack of refinement in the playing of the orchestra, they gave a good account of the familiar overture. The chorus was energetic and the male voices in Act I. were heard to distinct advantage.

DALY'S.

Mr. Augustin Daly, faithful to his announcement, revived Shakespeare's exquisite fairy play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," at his theatre last Tuesday. With such sumptuous taste and elegance was the piece produced, notably in respect to its scenery, that it might be inferred that a long run was anticipated for the revival, whereas in point of fact only six or seven representations could be given. From the prominence given to Miss Ada Rehan's name by large type in the programme it seems to be inferred that the main public interest in the play is concentrated upon her impersonation of Helena. If so, the presumption is erroneous. Like her equally love-sick Julia in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," the part of Helena proved to be one in which the favourite American comedian is seen to disadvantage, relatively to her great histrio powers, inasmuch as she plays the part as it were in a monotonous note of elongated lugubriousness. The linked sweetness of her eloquence throughout the passages in which the love-sick Athenian lady reproaches Demetrias for his perfidy was so long drawn out as to weary the audience, and, what is more, upset the balance of the play as regards the emphasis of its sentiment, the true key-note of which, expressive of pensiveness rather than mournfulness, was exactly struck by Miss Elliott as Hermia, by far the better played character of the two ladies act at cross purposes with each other as well as with their respective lovers by the mischievous imp, Puck, at the bidding of the fairy king, Oberon. So with the two swains, the manlier and more varied in the expression which begets illusion was seen in the Lysander;

der of Mr. Craig as compared with the Demetrias of Mr. Worthing. Miss Sybil Carlile made a capital Oberon, but Miss Haweill was less satisfactory as Titania. The Puck of Miss Swain was rather lively and tuneful; and the laugh in which this lady indulges so often is terribly artificial. The Bottom of Mr. Lewis proved to be quaint enough, but wanting in breadth and fulness, especially while under the sway of Puck in the love scene with Titania. Old players sighed at the contrast while reciting the characteristically tuneful vigour of Phips in the scene. By the way, the carrying on of the act by Puck in face of the audience robe the translation of Bottom of its realism resulting from the enchantment. The weaver should recover his human identity by a sudden illusive change without the means by which it is effected being perceived. The Clowns were in the main well portrayed as regards their several grotesque individualities, the best impersonation being the Quince of Mr. Leclercq. The music throughout was charmingly sung, and the scenic effects as aids to the exposition of the play were in harmony with the poetic dramatisations indicated by its title and text. The performance was welcomed plaudits upon its merits and greeted with justly-earned applause.

GARRICK.

Madame Réjane has resumed her inimitable impersonation of the vivacious Madame Sans Gêne, the French laundress raised by the hurdy-gurdy of the Revolution, followed by the Empire, to the rank of a marshal's wife. If her acting of the comic gaucherie of the quick-witted washerwoman playing the grand Court lady was somewhat over-accentuated, the extravagance here in England is almost reasonable, forasmuch as the broadening of the ludicrous effects serves as a sort of compensation in the interruption of the character for the missing by English ears of the finer points of finesse in the French dialogue. The performance, with virtually the same cast as that of last year in London, gave unmixed delight by its genuine comicality, and in the main true to nature, to an audience filling the theatre from floor to ceiling.

ST. JAMES'S.

Following closely upon the heels of Mr. Alexander's revival of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" came on the 4th inst. another interesting resurrection in "The Idler," which, despite the manifest incongruity in the character of its most prominent personage, Mark Cross, remains the best piece of work yet given to the stage by Mr. Haddon Chambers. The dramatic tension through the scenes in which the American Simeon Strong pursues his vendetta upon the murderer of his brother, to the very moment of consummation, again held the audience in hushed attention by the spell of its illusive earnestness, as expressed with no abatement of pristine historic vigour by Messrs. George Alexander and Mr. John Mason; and with his wonted power of portraying a distinct individuality, Mr. Herbert Waring gave prominence to the unhappy husband of Lady Harding, whose emotion at the desperate dilemma in which she is placed by the machinations of her insidious tempter found effective utterance through the picturesque rendering of Miss Evelyn Millard. Miss Irene Vanbrugh in the vivacious part formerly played by Miss Maudie Millett, and Lady Monckton in her original assumption, completed the admirable all-round cast.

PALACE.

The three years' absence of Miss Lottie Collins from the London variety stage has not shaken her popularity, and when her engagement with Mr. Charles Morton has been brought to a close there are other audiences who will be anxious to hear once more the vivacious comedienne and ring-leader of the "Ta-ra-ra" craze. Nor is Miss Collins calling that this melody should be cast upon one side, and introduces it into a well-written song describing the virtues of a young damsel whose ordinary conduct, we are told, would not lead one to suspect that "she could sing 'Ta-ra-ra' and as high as Lottie Collins." This is followed by one of Miss Collins's past successes, "The Little Widow," which in turn is succeeded by Mr. Leslie Stuart's tuneful song, "I Went to Paris with Papa." Miss Lottie Collins has not forgotten how to dress well and becomingly, and her dancing remains one of her strongest recommendations.

CANTERBURY.

The new dramatic sketch produced here on Monday by Mr. G. A. Payne, and entitled "A Plucky Rogue," is likely to please those for whose entertainment it has been devised, for the little play gives Mr. Charles Godfrey another opportunity of showing his fitness to excel in other roles than that of the comic singer. We do not say that the popular actor-vocalist has not been seen to greater advantage than as the convict philosopher, whose attachment to a tiny mouse wins for him a consideration that is not enjoyed by every criminal, and it is possible that Mr. Godfrey would do more with a part demanding a more vigorous impersonation. The three scenes into which "A Plucky Rogue" is divided are pretty and effective, and the music is decidedly tuneful. In addition to Mr. Godfrey, parts are provided for Mr. George Weston, and Miss Ruby Celeste; while good service is tendered by that group whose name does not appear upon the programme. It may be mentioned that Mr. Godfrey is provided with a song, "Right 'un or wrong 'un," and that he renders it with that emphasis which the occasion demands.

CANAL AT SANDWICH FLATS.

The Sandwich corporation considered the scheme for the diversion of the River Stour across the Sandwich Flats at their meeting, and eventually decided to cut a canal through

"Parfisi," and several extracts from "Die Meistersinger." Although "Parfisi" was naturally bereft of its proper dramatic and stage accessories, it was throughout a creditable and admirable performance, and it enabled amateurs unfamiliar with Bayreuth to hear at least some part of Wagner's great work. Mr. Van Dyck, who appeared a few seasons ago at Covent Garden, sang the music of Parfisi, the parts of Guenemay and Amfortas being effectively rendered by Mr. Plunkett Greene and Mr. David Bispham. Mr. Van Dyck also gave an excellent account of "Die Meistersinger." Her Majesty's harpist, Mr. John Thomas, gave his annual concert at St. James's Hall, and, as usual, was favoured with a numerous audience. The chief attraction was the really fine playing of a band of lady harpists, who were heard in Gounod's "Marche Solennelle," Rossini's "La Canta, the Hungarian," "Rakoczy" March, and Chopin's "Funeral March." Mr. Thomas himself played a couple of solos, and joined Miss Eisler in a duet for two harps, and subsequently in conjunction with Mr. Holman gave another for harp and violoncello, both duets being of his own composition. The vocalists included Miss Eleanor Rees, Miss Clara Williams, Miss Mary Thomas, Mr. Hirson Jones, and Mr. Dwyer Lewis. The United States has within the past few years sent us many singers of acknowledged repute, but the number of executive musicians who have crossed the Atlantic has been surprisingly small. Of that number the Mme. Sutro, who gave a piano-forte recital at St. James's Hall, must be regarded as not by any means the least talented. Their "forte" in piano-forte ensemble playing, and the statement that the result they are able to achieve is not the outcome of prolonged study, but the "response of two sympathetic minds whose musical intelligence has simultaneously developed," is one which may be accepted without dispute. It is further asserted that they have the entire repertoire of duets for two pianos at their command, and certainly the programme presented evinced great versatility, ranging from Bach to Brahms, and from Chopin to Chamisso. Mr. Jules Hollander, at his piano-forte recital at Queen's Hall, was assisted by Miss Jeanne Levine, who gave some well-executed violin solos of Gade and Schumann. Mr. Hollander was heard in compositions by Greig, Schumann, Chopin, Wieniawski, and Listz. His happiest effort was the transcription of "Tannhäuser March," by the latter, for here all the excellence of his technique was brought into prominence. Mrs. Hollander was an efficient accompanist.

Next Monday the German Reed entertainment will start anew with a revival of Gilbert and Clavé's "Arcadia," "The Professor," by Messrs. G. Grossmith and Rutland Barrington, and a new skit by Mr. H. Chance Newton entitled "Soured and Sweetened." Starting at the old venue at St. George's Hall, the entertainment, as soon as the building is ready, will be removed to the new hall near the Garrick Theatre, in the Charing Cross-road. After several contradictory reports as to the authorship of the next new drama at the Adelphi, it is at last definitely settled that the piece shall be written in collaboration by Messrs. Brandon Thomas and Clement Scott. The play will be produced in September. The Princess's re-opens under the new system of popular prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 6d. gallery on the 3rd August. The stately entertainment will be romantic melodrama. Although London players are unfortunately not likely to see their favourite, Miss Nellie Farren, again as an actress, they will soon have the opportunity of welcoming her back to public life as a manageress. Miss Farren, forestalled by the Paulton Company at the Strand, is now on the look out for another West-end theatre of similar proportions. —Miss Cissy Loftus is an enthusiastic cyclist, but she declines to ride in smalls, which she considers ugly and unnecessary, modestly preferring to retain the full and flowing skirt of her sex. —Mr. Blakeley will appear, by arrangement, with Mr. George Edwardes, in the new play with which Mr. Bourchier is to re-open the Royal on Sept. 7. —The new comic opera, with the chief female character in it specially fitted to display the qualities of Miss Florence St. John, to which reference was made in last week's notes, is none other than Madame Sans Gêne. So now we are promised two English representations of Mme. Réjane's famous impersonation—one musical with Miss Ellen Terry.

The heat and the coming elections between them have suddenly caused a great falling off in theatrical audiences. The first result of this was seen in the closing of the St. James's for the season at two days' notice on Wednesday last. None the less, Mr. Alexander is already preparing for his autumn campaign, for, as already stated, he has just acquired a one-act play peculiarly original in its theme and treatment, by Mr. Stuart Cumberland, the "thought-reader." —The Lyric Opera House, at Hammersmith Broadway, will open on Saturday, July 20, and not on the August Bank Holiday, as erroneously announced.

GOLD DUST? SWINDLE.

A trick, well-known in London, and apparently practised frequently in Paris, has just landed four men, bearing Russian names, in durance vile. The method pursued by the swindlers was to enter into negotiations with various merchants. They would state they had a considerable quantity of gold-dust for sale, obtained from Russian officers who were charged with the duty of guarding the mines. In the most recent cases in which they attempted to effect a sale, however, the suspicions of the buyer were aroused. He gave information to the police, and the arrest of the swindlers followed. At their lodgings was found a considerable quantity of copper-powder, obtained from curtain-rod, and which were sold to the swindlers.

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LAST WEEK'S ITEMS.

The Khedive leaves on a visit to Constantinople on July 15.

Egyptian conscription is to be extended to Cairo, Alexandria, and other large towns.

Five cloth mills at Yeadon, near Leeds, have been stopped owing to a dispute as to wages. Nearly 2,000 hands are affected.

It is announced from Berlin that another international monetary congress is likely to be summoned.

Dr. Zapf, the celebrated philologist and Professor of English Language and Literature at the Berlin University is dead.

John Curtis, alias Kent, was released from Portland prison last week and was taken charge of by the Amnesty Association.

Annie Perry, 40, wife of a dyer at High Hill Ferry, Clapton, complained of pains in her chest and died almost immediately.

The King of the Saracens has sent indunas to request the Chartered South Africa Company to appoint a resident for Barotseland.

Although the general belief at Athens is that the published reports regarding the agitation in Macedonia are exaggerated, the newspapers continue to discuss the matter.

A man named Lawrence James, residing at Stourbridge, was found lying in bed, and admitted he had taken poison. Before medical aid could be obtained he expired.

A number of delegates of the International Railway Congress visited Windsor Castle and were introduced to the Queen by the Prince of Wales.

Four sheep were last week worried in a field near Hinsey, Stourbridge, by two dogs. The animals were found shockingly maimed, and two had to be immediately slaughtered.

Florence McCarthy, 24, of Longfellow-road, Worcester Park, Epsom, died from a fracture of the base of the skull at St. Thomas' Hospital, but how the injuries were caused is not known.

A demonstration of the Amalgamated Societies of Teddington and District took place in Teddington on Saturday in aid of the funds of the Teddington and Hampton Wick Cottage Hospital.

The body of a middle-aged woman was taken out of the canal at Leamington apparently dead, but the police used artificial means of restoration, and she sufficiently recovered to be taken to hospital. It is said she attempted suicide.

An inquest was held at Barnsley last week on the body of Wm. H. Alias, fishmonger, who shot himself with a revolver through the heart on Friday. Deceased was a widower with two children. He suffered from neuralgia and depression about trade.—Verdict, suicide while temporary insane.

At the East Dock, Swansea, on Saturday, a serious gas explosion occurred on board the American liner, Harbadian, of Liverpool, caused by after damp. Four men were seriously injured, and removed to hospital. The second engineer (Tyson) is not expected to survive his injuries.

At Dover, on Saturday, a local tradesman named Harvey, who was a candidate for the Town Council last year, was charged with attempted suicide. He jumped into the sea near Shakespeare's Cliff, but was pluckily saved by a railway fireman named Ockenden. Prisoner was remanded.

The third annual show of window flowers for Southwark was held on Saturday at the Red Cross Gardens, S.E. The Earl of Stamford presided, and the counts distributed the prizes to the winners. A large concourse of persons attended, and the show was a pronounced success.

It is stated that the South-Eastern Railway Company have agreed to pay the widow of the engine-driver, Edwin Woodgate, who met with a fatal accident at the Britannia Bridge at Erith, £500 and all expenses, and have likewise resolved to alter the bridge, as other accidents have occurred at the same place.

Magnificent weather favoured the Shahzad's visit to Brighton on Saturday. His highness was received at the railway station by the mayor and civic authorities, who presented him with an address of welcome. After luncheon with Sir A. Saxon, his highness went for a drive and visited several places of interest.

At the Royal Court of Jersey, last week Charles Henry Bott, pleaded guilty to embezzling several hundreds of pounds from a local Oddfellows lodge. A large number of members had paid their subscriptions to the prisoner since 1890 but no entries had been made in the book. Sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

The lady boarders and sisters of the Laurel Hill Convent, Limerick, to the number of between 70 and 80, were on Wednesday evening, after dinner, taken ill, and the doctors ascribed the symptoms to poison. On Saturday Sister Mary Josephine died, but with the exception of two nuns who remain in a dangerous condition the others have recovered.

At Woolley, near Bath, on Saturday, a wedding of great local interest was interrupted by the arrest of the bridegroom at the church door, the charge being that of embezzling money belonging to his employer. He was conveyed to Bath in his wedding attire and lodged in the central police station.

At Taunton, last week, Robert Valentine Sear, until recently Quartermaster of the 3rd Batt. Prince Albert's Somersetshire Light Infantry, was convicted of stealing £2 which had been paid him by a militiaman for the latter's discharge. Sear, who has just retired from the army on full pension, after 35 years service, was sentenced to pay a fine of £5.

The annual meeting of Northumberland miners was held at Morpeth last week under the presidency of Mr. R. Young. Mr. Fenwick, M.P., said that although trade was depressed there was a rift in the clouds. Mr. Burt, who also spoke, characterized the Factories Act as one of the most important measures affecting labour that had ever been passed.

At the Hague last week, in the presence of the Queen Regent, the ministers, and military and civil authorities, Queen Wilhelmina distributed the decorations conferred upon the officers and men who have just returned from the East Indies, after taking part in the victorious campaign against the rebellious Rajah of Lombok.

The Chinese Loan has been signed by the representatives of six French and four Russian banks, and by the plenipotentiaries of the Chinese Government. In the event of China failing to make payments at the stipulated periods, Russia takes over the responsibility of meeting the obligations incurred by the agreement.

The Chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee (Lord Carrington) having delivered a stirring address to the Queen, which has now become an annual and popular affair amongst the ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. Mr. B. L. Cohen, late M.P. for the division, was present, and was cordially received by his supporters.

The Scillonian Club met last week at the Albion Hotel, Ludgate Circus. This, the latest of London clubs, is composed of natives of the Isles of Scilly living in London. The proceedings terminated with a smoking concert. Letters were read approving the foundation of the club from the "King of Scilly," from Mr. T. B. Bolitho, and from the perpetual curate of the Isles.

TO DARKEN GREY HAIR.—LOCKEY'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORE is the quickest, best, safest, costs less, effects more than any other. The colour produced is most natural. Lockey's Sulphur is the only English Hair Restorer.—Lockey's.

THE VOLUNTEERS

1ST LONDON ARTILLERY.

On the Horse Guards Parade the brigades assembled for official inspection by Maj.-gen. Lord Methuen. The latter was 1,000 strong. Col. Colly being in command. The inspection officer inspected the line and the condition of the uniforms, &c., after which there was the usual series of movements.

3RD WEST SUSSEX.

This battalion, under the command of Col. S. B. Bunting, assembled at the headquarters in Bordon, and proceeded by train to the embarkation point.

The inspection officer inspected the line and the condition of the uniforms, &c., after which there was the usual series of movements.

26TH MIDDLESEX (CYCLISTS).

The annual official inspection of this corps took place on the parade grounds at Chelmsford. Col. Colly was in command of a muster of 50 cyclists. The inspecting officer appeared well pleased with the appearance of the corps.

2ND TOWER HAMLETS.

In Victoria Park the annual official inspection of this corps took place by Col. Oliphant. The battalion assembled at the headquarters, Tredgar-road, and Col. W. R. Bunting. There was a muster of about 700. The drill was carried out satisfactorily.

LONDON SCOTTISH.

The following are the principal scores of D Co. at the prize meeting held at Staines:—Sergt. Murison, 52; Sergt. Munro and Pte. M'Donald, 51; each; Pte. 52; Sergt. 51; Pte. 50; W. H. Reid, 49; Pte. 49; Pte. 47; Pte. 46; 2nd Lt. Chick and Pte. Burnett, 51 each; Munro, 51; 2nd Lt. L.-sergeant, Reid, 52; 200 yards, Pte. Reid, 54; 300 yards, Sergt. Munro, 52, the total of the company's eight being 552.

22ND MIDDLESEX.

The annual drill competition for the commanding officers' shield, took place in Gray's Inn. Col. Colly was in command of a muster of 62 cyclists. The inspecting officer appeared well pleased with the appearance of the corps.

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ATHLETICS.

THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

RECONCILED AND BEATEN.

At Stamford Bridge Grounds assembled quite 8,000 spectators to witness the annual championships under the auspices of the Amateur Athletic Association, a gathering which must be a record one for the finest sporting meetings ever promoted, for splendid performances were the order of the day throughout, and grand finished aroused enthusiasm to fever point.

First and foremost, W. G. George's long-standing mile record was smothered by F. C. Forrester, the latter equalling the record in the grand of 1700 yards.

A fortnight of what was to come was shown in the first heat of the hurdles, and Godfrey Shaw won somewhat easily in 1:02—record time credited to himself. C. N. Jackson, S. Palmer, C. F. Daff, and D. Bulger, but in the final he eclipsed this performance and set up a record of 1:01.25. Bradley won his right to be considered the amateur sprinter by beating Downer in the final of 1700 yards.

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END OF A BEANFEAST.

At Gullhall, Thomas Morris was charged before Ald. Green with being drunk and assaulting Richard Hughes, porter at the Railway Tavern, Liverpool-street. The assault was so serious a nature that Hughes had to be taken to the hospital to have his injuries attended to. Prisoner also assaulted the police. Defendant said that on the 6th he had attended a beanfeast, and returning went into the Railway Tavern to have a "parting glass." The Prosecutor struck him and tried to get the glass out of his hand. He returned the blow. The manager of the tavern stated that he called the complainant to stop prisoner going out of the house with a glass. When he did so, defendant dashed the glass in his face. Prisoner having received a good character, the alderman said that he had committed a serious and unprovoked assault. He had nearly deprived a man of the sight of one eye. The least he could do would be to compensate the man he had injured. Fined 25/- in default, 21 days.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A CHILD.

Just before the rising of the Marylebone Police Court on Tuesday, a young married woman named Billings, 25, living at Drummond-street, Euston-road, was brought before Mr. Flouden charged with wounding her child, aged 2 years, and causing it grievous bodily harm.—Joseph William Smyth, a coffee-house keeper, living opposite to the accused's house, said that he was standing at his shop door about seven o'clock that morning when he saw the prisoner appear at the first door window with a naked baby in her arms. She appeared to be beside herself with excitement and fright, and screamed out pitifully. "Oh, save my boy!" Witness ran across the road, whereupon she climbed out of the window on to the shutter-shelf, as if to get away from someone who was following her; and having again cried to the witness to save her boy, dropped or threw the child to the ground, a distance of 15ft. Then, as if in great terror, and heedless of all danger, she leaped, with wonderful agility, on to the window-shelf of an adjoining house and knocked at the window and implored the inmates of the room to let her in. The window was opened and she scrambled in.—Dr. Griffiths, house-surgeon, Temperance Hospital, Hampstead-road, said the child was brought there. It had a few bruises on the arms and legs, which were not of a serious character. It had had a very lucky escape.—Prisoner: Thank you, thank you.—Witness added that he had since examined the accused, and was of opinion that her mind was deranged.—Re-

FORGERIES ON LONDON BANKS.

Alfred Hunt, of Princedale-terrace, Winchester, described as an actor, and Arthur Cronin, of Ronald-road, Holloway, barman, were charged at the Mansion House, on remand, before the Lord Mayor, with being concerned, with two men named Small and Meeson, in forging and uttering two cheques, one for £211, and the other for £411, on Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co.'s bank, and two cheques for £366 and £640 on the Queen Victoria-street branch of the City Bank. Mr. Bonaponti prosecuted on behalf of the London Bankers' Association and Mr. Porteau defended Hunt. The case has been many times before the court, and the circumstances have been fully explained. A further charge was heard of forging a cheque for £310 on the London and County Bank, Lombard-street, in the name of Mr. Elliot Stock, publisher, Paternoster-roy. This cheque was cashed in February last year, and it was sought to connect the prisoners with the forgery by means of a box of type found in Hunt's possession when arrested by Insp. Wright. The type from which the letter for the delivery of the blank cheque-book—the book from which the forged cheque was taken—was obtained, was exactly the same as that in this box.—Mr. Bonaponti said that there were a number of other documents in the case printed in exactly similar types, and the contention of the prosecution was that this box of type played a most important part in the very successful scheme of forgery which had been carried on now for over 18 months. It was a source of great gratification to the Bankers' Association that at last they had been enabled to unravel a scheme in which the names of several members of the legal profession, Messrs. Coutts and Co., Meeson, Leigh and Pemberton, and Messrs. Woodroffe, among others, had been used.—Prisoners, who reserved their defence, were committed for trial.

IMPOSTOR SENTENCED.

At Marlborough-street, Thomas Curzon, 34, draper's assistant, living at a common lodging-house in Blackfriars-road, was charged with attempting to obtain charitable contributions in aid of the Unionist Touring Association from his grace the Duke of Newcastle by means of a letter and card with intent to defraud.—Duke of Newcastle said that in May, 1894, prisoner called for subscriptions on behalf of the Unionist Touring Association. Believing that there was some association, he gave prisoner a cheque for £10 10s. on that occasion. On the day following another man called on behalf of the same association, which led him to make inquiries. He had had no further communication with prisoner until he came on the 6th inst. Witness being out, prisoner said he would call again at 8.30. On arriving home before that time witness gave information to the police. Prisoner called again in the evening and handed in a letter, stating that he wished to see his grace on important business, and that 40 members of the association were going to Nottingham.—Det.-supt. Bridges despatched to arresting prisoner at the Duke of Newcastle's house in Hill-street. Prisoner said, "My name is Curzon. I am collecting money on behalf of this society. Mr. Hook, the secretary, sent me." He took prisoner into custody, and on his way to the police station Curzon said, "There is no Mr. Hook. Two of us have been working it. I had a row this morning with the man who calls himself Cook. I was hard up, and thought I would call and get some money. There is no truth in the letter that 40 of us were going to start for Nottingham." When searched he was found to have in his possession a printed subscription list.—Det.-supt. Shaddock said he had made inquiries and found that no such association as represented had ever been in existence. —Prisoner pleaded guilty. Three months.

UP-TO-DATE SHOEBLACKS.

A new departure in the shoeblack industry has been initiated in London. Under ordinary circumstances the shoeblack would have to stand on the kerb, balanced on one foot, while the attendant manipulates the brushes on the other. But at two of our leading railway stations, Holborn Viaduct and Ludgate Hill, elaborate chairs are being fitted by the Central Shoeblack Society for the comfort and convenience of their numerous patrons. The chairs are of the ordinary type, with a seat 16in. raised on a well-sprung platform, the shoeblack standing up to his work. At the side of the chair, in a neat receptacle in a file of the day's papers with which the customer may beguile the few minutes he is detained. There are two boys to each pair of chairs, and whilst one is attending to the shoeblack, the other gives his seat and has a comfortable rest. It is intended that the experiment prove popular and is intended to extend it by increasing the number of chair stations.

At Brompton County Court Mr. G. Faithfull, shorthand clerk, recovered £30 damages for trespass, and £5 for loss of goods removed by order of Mrs. G. Weldon, of West Kensington, in whose employ he was for some time.

Dr. MACKINNON'S ARSENICAL COMPLEXION SOAP, the original and only genuine produces lovely skin, and removes freckles, pimples, &c., from the face. It is a safe and the best remedy for diarrhoea.

MAGISTRATE ON "BILKING."

On Tuesday, at Duddingston Ward Hall, Birmingham, upwards of 60 railway signalmen from various parts of the United Kingdom met in conference, convened by the Amalgamated Society, to consider the best means of having carried out by the companies the programme of hours and wages adopted by the Derby Conference in 1873.—The report of the committee was submitted. It stated that the committee were gratified to find that, through the greatly improved organisation of the Society, in conjunction with the Railway Regulation Act of 1893, 12 hour spells in signal boxes had been considerably reduced by the adoption of the 10 hours day; whilst in a number of instances the eight hours day had been adopted, and Sunday duty had been either abolished or materially reduced. In the concluding part of their report the committee stated: "Our hours of duty are too long, relief for Sunday duty too infrequent, and the wages of signalmen most inadequate all round." Mr. J. Franklin (Skipper) moved on behalf of the Shropshire branch: "That this conference of signalmen of the United Kingdom requests to the various railway companies to at once fix the time of all signalmen to six days per week." Mr. Dolphin (Marlborough) seconded the motion, which was carried by 33 votes to five.—It was resolved that the maximum hours of any signalman should not exceed 10 per day.

TRAGEDY AT LEEDS.

An old woman named Mary Ann Chambers, who lived in Peters-square, Leeds, was on Tuesday attacked by a man, supposed to be a lunatic, named Joseph Attinson, and so seriously injured that she died shortly afterwards. The police succeeded in arresting the man, who had attacked several other persons.

CHINESE ENVOY SHOT.

The "China Gazette" publishes a report that Wang-Chi-Sun, the Chinese envoy who was sent to St. Petersburg to congratulate the Czar on his marriage and to endeavour to arrange for Russian assistance in the war with Japan, was mysteriously shot while walking in Saigon, the capital of French Cochin-China. The envoy received two bullets in the arm and shoulder. His assailants are unknown, but it is surmised that the outrage has been dictated by feelings of dissatisfaction at the result of his mission to Russia. The perpetrator escaped, and are known to have found their way back into Chinese territory.

SUMMONS FOR "IMMORTALITY."

An extraordinary application was made to Mr. Flouden at Marylebone, by a woman of the working-class. She appeared to be in great distress, and pitifully implored the magistrate to grant her a summons against a woman who had accused her of "immortality." (Laughter.) In which the applicant did not join.—Mr. Flouden replied, with a smile, that that was an ideal state to which a great many folks in this world aspired. He could scarcely appreciate her grief, for one of the highest compliments possible had been conferred upon her. His only hope was that she might be the recipient of so great a favour. (Laughter.)—Applicant left the witness-box apparently very perplexed, and not a little disatisfied that she had been unable to obtain any redress against her accuser.

RULE OF THE ROAD AT SEA.

The report of the Seafarers Committee on the Rule of the Road at Sea is issued as a Parliamentary paper. In view of the short time which remains for the consideration of their report, during the late session, the committee resolve to report the evidence to the House, and to express an opinion that a committee should be appointed as soon as practicable next session for the purpose of considering the evidence.

LEYTON SCHOOL BOARD.

The result of the triennial election of a School Board for Leyton, which took place on the 6th, was declared on Monday at the West Ham Local Offices. The following were the successful candidates: old members being marked with an asterisk.—"Atkins (R.), 4,524; Poulter (R.), 2,668; Sheldrake (U.), 2,583; Head (R.), 2,567; Davis (R.), 2,402; Waller (R.), 2,153; Ware (U.), 1,900; Gray (U.), 1,750; Rose (U.), 1,410; Alexander (U.), 1,302; Hooper (R.), 1,258.

ELECTION TROUBLES.

A gentleman complained to Mr. Corser at Thames Police Court that the fronts of eight houses belonging to him had been smothered with posters relating to the candidature of Mr. Bentz for St. George's. The bills were pasted up in spite of the protests of the tenants, and the agent of the candidate had refused to take them down until the election was over.—Mr. Corser said if applicant sustained any damage or expense in removing the bills, he could sue the candidate.—A number of summonses were granted against persons on account of wilful damage and assault committed in connection with the election in the same district.

"CASH FOR BRAINS" CASE.

At Bow-street the commissioner of police was summoned by Reuben Clement for defrauding postal order value 10s. 6d.—Complainant was one of the competitors in the notorious "Cash for Brains" case, and the order in question found its way into the hands of the police on the arrest of the defendants in that case.—Mr. Lushington made an order, but declined to allow costs.—In answer to Supt. Stockley the magistrate expressed an opinion that the commissioner would be justified in handing over any postal orders to the various applicants for them who proved their claim without an order of the court. It is understood that the commissioner of police has in his hands upwards of 2,000 of these orders.

MISHAP TO A STEAMER.

A mishap which considerably alarmed the passengers occurred on Tuesday on board the steamship Shannon, after she had left Tarbert (on the Lower Shannon), for Kilrush. The vessel was stopped, and an examination revealed that the driving crank had been disabled, and rendered the vessel helpless. She drifted before a strong gale towards the Clare-shore, but fortunately a serious accident was averted by the timely appearance of the Liverpool steamer, Ardnamut, which towed the Shannon back to safety to Tarbert Roads, her passengers, 50 in number, being subsequently conveyed to their destination.

PROTECTION FOR CATS.

There is a society for the protection of cats, and at a meeting on Tuesday at 24, Weymouth-street, the members discussed proposals for the benefit of these animals.—The president of the society, Mr. Balmanno Squire, spoke of the stray cat as the most necessitous and miserable of its species. He reminded the meeting that 24,000 stray dogs were received at the Battersea home in the course of a year, and, assuming that cats were more numerous than dogs, he thought it would be a benefit to London if 25,000 stray cats could be enabled to exchange a slow and painful death for a comparatively easy one. They were, however, unable to establish a home for cats on the lines of the Battersea home, as the society had only recently sprung into existence, but he thought something might be done in the way of collecting accurate information on the subject.—This was agreed to, and after a discussion on the question of the taxation of cats, it was intimated that an appeal would be issued by the society setting forth its objects, and asking for the support of all lovers of animals.

MODERN ROBINSON CRUSOE.

The Parisian police are making strenuous efforts to clear the parks and pleasure-grounds of the lasters and vagabonds. On Sunday evening officers raided the Bois de Vincennes. Forcing a line across one end of the ground, they proceeded throughout its length, arresting 28 persons, the majority of whom were habitual criminals, and at least one of them a dangerous criminal, who escaped from jail soon after he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He was serving a sentence of 10 years for the murder of a woman, and it is believed that he had built for himself out of branches of trees not far from the Vincennes fort. He acted as legal adviser to the hordes. In winter he used to find refuge in a quarry at Montrouge.

TO MOTHERS.

Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used over 10 years by millions of mothers for their children with soothings, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

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RAILWAY SIGNALMEN'S CONFERENCE.

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RAIDING, DISORDERLY HOUSES.

Armed with warrants granted by the magistrate, upon the application of the overseer, who had been set in motion by the Charing Cross Vigilance Association, Sub-divisional Inspector Tildeley visited four alleged disorderly houses on Tuesday evening. The inmates of one had decamped, but three men and two women were arrested, and brought before Mr. Curtis Bennett, Mr. De Fontenelle, solicitor, prosecuted on behalf of the overseer.—Carlo Guallini, 41, an Italian hairdresser, was fined £15, and five guineas costs, for permitting 9, Little Newport-street, to be used as a disorderly house. Mr. Arthur Newton, solicitor, defended.—Pierre Estantin, 27, restaurant-keeper, and his parents, Claude, aged 62, and Elizabeth, 52, were accused of keeping Jay's Hotel, 45, Charing Cross-road, as a disorderly house. Mr. Bamfield, solicitor, defended.—The information in this case was supported by the evidence of Mr. Herbert Schatzar, one of the vicar's choristers at Westminster Abbey, who lives immediately opposite the premises. For two years he had been complaining to the vestry and the police. The proceedings having been instituted under the old Act of George III. upon the complaint of two inhabitants "paying scot and bearing lot" in the parish, prisoners were committed for trial.—Mr. Curtis Bennett offered to accept two sureties in £100 each for Pierre's appearance, and two sureties in £50 each for Claude and Elizabeth Estantin.—Flemena De Falco, 33, Italian laundress, was charged with being a disorderly house. Mr. Arthur Newton, solicitor, defended.—She also was committed for trial, two bailiffs in £25 each being accepted for her appearance.

HOW THE POOR LIVE.

Hornby Cox, a working man, living at Tonleay-place, East Hill, Wandsworth, was summoned at the South-Western for keeping bad drains at 61 and 63, Darren-road, Battersea.—Mr. W. W. Young, solicitor to the Battersea Vestry, said the defendant recently came into the property. He took the rent from the tenants. Two families occupied each house, but since January there had been no water-closets at all in the houses, and the trenches were filled.—Defendant admitted the offence, and said he had no money to get water-closets with.—Mr. Cluer: It is a shocking state of affairs. What do you mean to do? When are you going to put things right?—Defendant: When I get money.—Mr. Cluer: That means nothing. You are liable to a fine of £100, and I shall fine you £15 on each case. I hope the vestry will close the houses at once.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A BARRISTER.

A Cardiff furniture dealer sued a wholesale East-end firm in the Shoreditch County Court on Tuesday.—It was stated that the defendant bought a number of walnut-wood cheffoniers. These goods were of the commonest kind made in the trade, and no warranty was ever given with them. A month after the goods were sent to defendant the latter wrote declining to pay for them on the ground that they had warped. As a matter of fact this class of goods had a tendency to crack in hot weather, and to warp when it was damp.—Judge French: Then they are only made for medium weather. Their career must be a brief one in the British climate. (Laughter.)—The Solicitor: Defendant could not expect anything better for 2s. 6d.—Defendant: I have bought hundreds at that price. I sell them for 2s. 6d.—Judge French: How long will they hold together?—Defendant: Years if carefully treated.—Judge French: I understand they must never be shaken. (Laughter.)—The woman who made the cheffoniers was called, and stated that he was paid 1s. 6d. for each.—Judge French: Who supplied the wood?—Witness: I did.—Judge French: Work and material for a walnut wood cheffonier for 1s. 6d.? Do you make many at that price?—Witness: Lots.—Judge French: And do the public pay 2s. 6d. for them?—Witness: I don't know what the public does. They'll do anything. (Laughter.)—Judgment was given for plaintiff.—In another case, heard later in the day, Judge French elicited the fact that a suite of furniture bought for £16 was sold for £37 10s. the next day.

FURNITURE TRADE SECRETS.

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BOGUS SHOEBLACK.

At Clerkenwell, Stephen Skinner, labourer, of no fixed abode, was charged with attempting to obtain by a forged receipt a suit of clothes, a pair of boots, two shirts, and 10s. in money from the Central Shoeblack Society, Great Saffron-hill, Holborn.—Mr. J. Bird, superintendent of the society, said the previous day prisoner came to his office and presented to him a letter, requesting that a suit of clothes, two shirts, a pair of boots, and 10s. be given to "bearer," who had had a lot of illness and was in want. The letter was signed by Mr. Paton, secretary to the society, and it was agreed that the work could not be delivered in time through the absence of the defendants. The girls claimed 1s. each for gratuities which they were entitled to receive under one of the rules for good conduct.—Mr. Lane first investigated the secretary's claim, and alighted him 5s. from each of the defendants. He then went into particulars of the claim on the other side, and came to the conclusion that each girl was entitled to receive 5s. The result would be, the magistrate said, that each party would walk out of court without any money.—The decision caused considerable amusement.

SMALL-POX AT KINGSTON.

An outbreak of small-pox has occurred at the Kingston Workhouse, where there are about 400 inmates. A tramp who had been admitted to the casual ward was afterwards found to be suffering from the malady, and every means were taken to prevent its spreading inside and outside the institution. No inmate is allowed to leave the house, and the outbreak is considered to be serious.

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BUDDING, BIRMINGHAM.

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

There are 320,000 maid-servants in London. President Faure's father is an upholsterer. The cable dogs in China have blue tongues. Icebergs sometimes last a great many years. Pineapples are sold in Madagascar at the rate of four for a cent.

Pine pudding was almost unknown in England before the middle of last century.

There were 48 women keeping livery stables in 1800.

The waters of North America are stocked with 1,800 different varieties of fish.

The colour of saffron depends on the extent to which fermentation has been allowed to go.

The huge guns of modern navies can be fired only 75 times, when they become worn out.

Hieronymus Lorn, the famous poet, philosopher, and critic of Germany, is totally blind.

From the custom-seed that used to be thrown away in the United States there are now, it is stated, 50,000 tons of oil made every year.

It is estimated that the total amount of gold in circulation throughout the world is less than 1,000 tons.

The largest nugget of gold ever seen was found in 1872, in the Hill End mine, New South Wales. It weighed 640 pounds.

Prof. Ferdinand Cohn, of Breslau, editor of the "Botanical Journal," receives the gold medal of the Linnaean Society this year.

The gnat is provided with a regular set of lancets and a cupping-glass, from which the air may be withdrawn.

The largest desert in Sahara, the greatest length of which is 3,100 miles, by a greatest width of 600 miles.

According to the last census there were 22,735,681 persons in the United States engaged in gainful occupations.

The last census shows that there were 288,933 dreammakers in the United States, of whom 288,153 were women.

Queen Victoria once said of the women of Ireland that every third Irish woman she saw was beautiful.

Petroleum has been used for some time in Germany as a means for preventing the formation of scale in boilers.

Siberian peasants clean, stretch, and dry the skin of the turbot for leather bags and as a substitute for glass window panes.

There will be a Mozart festival in Vienna next summer when the monument to the composer, made by Sculptor Thigener, is put into place.

The children of foreigners, as a rule, use English in preference to the language of their parents, especially after they begin to go to school.

An instrument capable of detecting one part of blood in 850,000 parts has been invented by M. de Thierry, a French scientist. It will be useful in murder trials.

Steel magnets temporarily lose their magnetism at the boiling-point of almond oil, and become non-magnetic when heated to an orange-red heat.

The amount of sales reported at Tokenhouse Yard since the commencement of January now stand at £2,141,933, against £2,335,780 in the corresponding period of 1894.

Gold deposits have been found near Bokhara by M. Portofsky, a Russian Government mining engineer, which, he asserts, are practically inexhaustible.

A spoon in a glass filled with hot water prevents the breaking of the glass, because the metal rapidly absorbs a large part of the heat.

Eleven persons committed suicide in London last week—a much larger number than usual. Can it be that persons have lost their mental balance through political excitement?

In the metropolis last week the deaths from diphtheria, which had been 45, 37, and 38 in the preceding three weeks, rose last week to 53, which is higher than the number in any week since last December.

In London last week 2,631 births and 1,319 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 90 above, and the deaths 14 below, the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last 10 years.

Indian agriculture is confined to a few plants, all of very easy cultivation and mostly indigenous to the soil. Indian corn, squash, beans, plantains, cassava, tobacco, and two or three others exhaust the list.

"As awkward as a crab" does not apply to some of the South Sea Islands, for a crab is found there that not only runs as fast as an average man, but climbs trees with the ease of a schoolboy.

Bismarck has been decorated with 51 orders. He has every decoration that the German Imperator can bestow except that of the Freundschaftsklasse, established by Frederick the Great.

Professor J. P. Hartmann, the dean of Danish composers, recently celebrated his 90th birthday, and among the honours paid him was a personal visit from the King, who conferred on him the grand cross of Daneborg set in brilliants.

Ten years ago there were only six bicycle manufacturers in the United States, and in 1885 the number of wheels turned out was 11,000. Now there are 26 manufacturers, and it is estimated that 500,000 wheels will be made this year.

Music relieves muscular fatigue in man, says Prof. Trachanoff, of St. Petersburg, who has been experimenting in the subject from a purely physiological standpoint. It helps to drive out carbonic acid in dogs and increases their consumption of oxygen; it also makes them perspire. He thinks it may be regarded as a serious therapeutic agent.

The directors of the Royal General Theatrical Fund have decided to increase the annualities to £30 (Class A), £20 (Class B), and £20 (Class C) per annum, and this is partly, if not mainly, owing to the recent successful appeal made by Sir E. Lawson on the occasion of the jubilee, which was followed by a shower of donations and lucky legacies.

The sale by auction of Viscount Bridport's 6,000 acres in the West of England will be followed, early in October, by that of 1,700 acres of the outlying portions of Viscount Combermere's estate in Cheshire. In both instances the properties will be submitted in a variety of lots, a wise determination in view of recent transactions in the land market.

Miss Cole and Mrs. L. Phillips and party made a journey in British Somaliland last winter and early spring, and collected and dried about 300 species of flowering plants and a few ferns, which they have generously presented to Kew. The country traversed was from Berbera to the Goliad range of hills, which rise to a height of 5,000 feet.

A report has reached New York of a curious riot between some Roman Catholics and Protestants in Perry county, Indiana. The Roman Catholics had organised a picnic, in which a thousand persons took part. In the fighting which ensued three persons were killed and 54 injured, 20 of them so seriously that fatal results are anticipated. Several women are amongst the injured.

The Rev. F. L. Langham, a missionary who has been in Fiji for the last 37 years, has been detailing some of his experiences. He has seen, he says, some remarkable changes. There are now 90,000 Christian natives in the islands out of a population of 100,000, and cannibalism, polygamy, infanticide, widow-strangling, and the burying of aged useless folks alive are all things of the past.

Numerous varieties of the hazel are cultivated in Kent for the sake of their nuts. The filbert, rather than the more rustic cob, is the form generally grown near Maidstone, the ground which is good for hops being regarded as equally suitable for a filbert plantation. Old woolen rags, it is said, make the best manure for the bushes, though the yield

varies much with the kind grown and with the season.

The Bishop of Bangor, who has been ordered to take a complete rest from work, has left the diocese for Norway.

Ninety-nine steamers and sailing vessels navigated the Manchester Ship Canal during last week—43 inwards, 56 outwards.

The Clothworkers' Company have made a grant of £51 to the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum for Destitute Children, Bagshot.

One of the oldest residents of Kerry says this is the driest year in Ireland in his memory.

It is said that the Shahzad proposes to extend his visit to this country until the end of this month.

Frederick Soddy, of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, has been elected to a Natural Science Mastership at Merton College, Oxford.

Though the dry weather has been detrimental to corn crops it has favoured the growth of potatoes, abundant supplies of which may be anticipated.

A movement to perpetuate, by a fitting tribute to his memory, the name and services of the late Field-marshal Sir P. Grant has been set on foot.

The revenue of Western Australia for the year ended June 30 amounted to £1,23,940, being an increase of £244,633 as compared with the previous year.

Surg.-gen. W. C. Maclean has been selected for appointment as an honorary surgeon to the Queen, in the room of the late Inst.-gen. Orr.

The number of commercial failures announced during the first half of this year in the United Kingdom has been 4,834 (viz., 2,575 bankruptcies and 2,009 deeds of arrangement).

Friends of the late Mr. R. S. Poole, formerly Keeper of the Coins at the British Museum, are taking steps to erect a permanent memorial to perpetuate his name.

A disastrous fire has occurred in the Russian town of Sambrion, in the Government of Lemberg, 230 houses were burned down, and over 2,000 persons are rendered homeless.

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An Order in Council has been approved by the Queen providing on certain specified terms for the immediate admission of 100 officers, lieutenants, and sub-lieutenants, of the Royal Naval Reserve to the Royal Navy for service in her Majesty's Fleet.

Col. C. A. Cripps, the Unionist candidate for Mid-Gloucestershire, has been appointed Attorney-general to the Prince of Wales, in succession to Sir H. James, who relinquished the post on being raised to the peerage.

The German Emperor has appointed Prof. von Wodtke, one of the chief framers of the recent legislation in favour of the working classes, to be head of the Imperial Patent Office.

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The pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, of Astoria, Long Island, announces for the information of wheelmen that he will hereafter make arrangements for the care of their wheels within the church on Sundays.

The Italian Government have concluded an agreement with the P. and O. Co. for direct steamship communication between Venice and Bombay, a step which finds much favour in Italian commercial circles.

At East Liverpool (Ohio) an electric tramcar left the track and fell over the embankment. One of the occupants was killed, and 15 received serious injuries which are expected in some cases to prove fatal.

It is understood that the Right Hon. H. Matthews will take the title of Viscount Glamorgan. The choice of the title has been stated by the fact that Mr. Matthews has interests in the county.

Mr. Balfour tersely describes the achievement of Lord Rosebery's Government in the three departments of Home Rule, disestablishment, and temperance as furnishing object lessons in meaningless phrase.

The gigantic wheel at Earl's Court carries 40 cars, each holding 40 passengers—a total of 1,600 persons, and capable of yielding, at 2s. and 1s. fares, as much as £20 a journey, set down to occupy 35 minutes in its performance.

Max Edel, a German bacteriologist, recently took a bath and then examined the water for microbes; he found that it contained 5,850,000,000. After a bath of one foot only, he estimated the number of microbes at 180,000,000.

Ivory to the amount of 583,177 pounds was sold last year in Antwerp, which is now one of the principal markets of the world for it; six years before, in 1888, only 14,103 pounds were sold there. There is no fear of an immediate exhaustion of the supply, as the native Africans still hold large quantities.

"Throw him into the Thames," persistently cried an interrupter at a meeting which Mr. J. Burn was addressing. "No, my friend, you cannot do that now, for there are heavy penalties for polluting the river," replied the working-man candidate. Nothing more was seen of the heckler.

Among the performing animals now to be seen at the Alhambra is a black poodle, which, seated on a chair, proceeds to pick out a diminutive piano two or three tunes at the accompaniment of the band. It is a most wonderful feat of training, and of intelligence.

Bulgarian masons have a curious practice.

To ensure, as they imagine, the solidity of the houses they build, they measure with a reed the shadow of the first person who passes after the digging of the foundation is completed. When the foundation is commenced, this reed is buried under the first rock, usually the corner stone.

The red fer is been a familiar object in the streets of Portmoutn lately. The little Turkish yacht, Fush, is the first Turkish vessel to have been built in Hamburgh entirely of compressed wood as hard as iron, and rendered absolutely proof against fire and the attacks of insects by subjecting to chemical processes.

The very sudden death has occurred of Gen. Swartzen, Chief of the Commissariat of the Russian Army, who died at Langres. He was on his way to Contrexeville, and had stopped at Langres. He was crossing the railway line when he dropped down dead from rupture of the heart.

Harrow operations have been commenced in West Middlesex, West Surrey, and Essex, where oaks are being cut in several places.

The grain, as a rule, is of excellent quality, but the crops are unusually short in the straw.

The recent rains have materially beneditted wheat.

Mr. Goschen, the first Lord of the Admiralty, has consented to receive a deputation from the shipbuilding and engineering organisations in London with reference to the Government contracts for shipbuilding. The desire in that work should be given to London firms.

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SPORTS OF THE PEOPLE.

[The Events of the Week up to Wednesday Night will be found in "Larry Lynn's Article."]

RACING.

BIBURY CLUB AND STOCKRIDGE MEETING.

THE WALLOP PLATE.—Ardington, Syrs. 1st 7lb (Mr. Thurby); 1: Woodstock, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. Barclay); 2: Dornoch, aged, 1st 6lb (Mr. Coventry); 3: Four ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Dornoch, and 3 to 1 aget Four.

THE THORO' STAKES.—Attainment, 1st 6lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Cheltenham, Syrs. 1st 6lb (S. Lester); 2: Four ran. Betting: 2 to 1 on Attainment.

A MATCH OF 50 SOV.—Cardinal, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Calder); 1: Cenotaph, Syrs. 1st (Mr. Cannon); 2: Betting: 5 to 4 on Cardinals.

AN ALL-AGED PLATE.—Braggadocio, Syrs. 1st 7lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Mayfield, Syrs. 1st 7lb (Brown); 2: Seven ran. Betting: Evans Mayfield, 9 to 4 aget Braggadocio, and 7 to 1 aget Bunting.

THE HURSTBOURNE STAKES.—Jolly Boat, 1st 10lb (S. Lester); 1: Minnie, 1st 6lb (Allsopp); 2: Dursley, Syrs. 1st (G. Brown); 3: Five ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Jolly Boat, 2 to 1 aget Minnie, and 10 to 1 aget Dursley.

THE ALINGTON PLATE.—Amphidrome, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Windiford, Syrs. 1st 7lb (Brown); 2: Arundel, Syrs. 1st 10lb (Allsopp); 3: Five ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Arundel, and 10 to 1 aget Windiford.

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THE STAFFORD SELLING WELTER HANDICAP PLATE.—Pon-Luck, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. Lushington); 1: Dulake, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. G. Lambton); 2: Casanova, Syrs. 1st (Mr. Barclay); 3: Eight Dursley. Betting: 5 to 4 on Pon-Luck, 11 to 2 aget Dulake, and 100 to 9 aget Casanova.

THE LONGSTOCK PLATE.—The Nipper, Syrs. 1st 10lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Insurance, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Brown); 2: Prince Lippe, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Liddington); 3: Three ran. Betting: 5 to 1 on The Nipper, 5 to 1 aget Insurance, and 100 to 1 aget Prince Lippe.

PONTEFRACT SUMMER MEETING.

THE RADICAL HANDICAP PLATE.—Royal Balsam, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Gibson); 1: Europa, Syrs. 1st (Gough); 2: Arundel, Syrs. 1st 10lb (Fogel); 3: Eight Dursley. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Europa, 7 to 1 aget Royal Balsam, and 7 to 1 aget Royal Balsam.

THE PARK HILL PLATE.—Ettiford, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Colling); 1: Ilfracombe, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Fogel); 2: Monaghan, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Gough); 3: Ten ran. Betting: 5 to 1 aget Monaghan and Ilfracombe, and 8 to 1 aget Ettiford.

THE CONFRONTING HANDICAP PLATE.—Toby Clare, Syrs. 1st 10lb (Madden); 1: Kale, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Hulme); 2: Peanyley, Syrs. 1st 6lb (A. White); 3: Ten ran. Betting: 2 to 1 aget Peanyley, 5 to 2 aget Toby Clare, and 10 to 1 aget Kale.

THE JUVENILE SELLING PLATE.—Karin Grove, Syrs. 1st (Lane); 1: Villager, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Wingfield); 2: Jessie, Syrs. 1st (Harrison); 3: Ten ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Karin Grove, 5 to 2 aget Villager, and 10 to 1 aget Jessie.

THE INNKEEPERS' HANDICAP PLATE.—Finsbury, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Gibson); 1: Rievaulx Abbey, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Fogel); 2: Shire, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Fogel); 3: Seven ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Finsbury, 5 to 4 aget Shire, and 6 to 1 aget Rievaulx Abbey.

THE BADGROWTH PLATE.—Omar, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Finlay); 1: Ormace, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Harrison); 2: Compassion, aged, 1st 6lb (Colling); 3: Three ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Badgrowth, 5 to 2 aget Omar, and 5 to 2 aget Ormace.

LINGFIELD PARK SUMMER MEETING.

THE JACK'S BRIDGE PLATE.—Margaret of Brackstone, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Maffo, Syrs. 1st 6lb (C. Ward); 2: Booby Trap, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Allsopp); 3: Seven ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Booby Trap, and 6 to 1 aget Margaret of Brackstone.

THE STARBOROUGH CASTLE PLATE.—Portrush, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Allsopp); 1: Fernhill, Syrs. 1st 6lb (C. Ward); 2: Gold Hackle, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. Cannon); 3: Seven ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Gold Hackle and Portrush, and 6 to 1 aget Fernhill.

THE LINGFIELD SUMMER HANDICAP PLATE.—Ettiford, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Colling); 1: Seven ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Ettiford, and 6 to 1 aget Fernhill.

THE BATHSSELLING PLATE.—Lady Lucy II, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Allsopp); 1: Bank Note, Syrs. 1st (Mr. Cannon); 2: Forte, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Brown); 3: Four ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Lady Lucy II, and 7 to 1 aget Forte.

HAMILTON PARK SUMMER MEETING.

THE BOTHWELL HANDICAP.—Dunmorgan, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Finlay); 1: Ports Bonheur, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Fogel); 2: Knocklay, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Wingfield); 3: Five ran. Betting: 7 to 4 aget Ports Bonheur, 2 to 1 aget Dunmorgan, and 7 to 2 aget Knocklay and Five Bonheur.

THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' WELTER HANDICAP PLATE.—Peony, Syrs. 1st 10lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Colours, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Fogel); 2: Ten ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Peony, 5 to 2 aget Colours, and 10 to 1 aget Bothwell.

THE TRIAL SELLING PLATE.—Mr. Tipple, Syrs. (Finlay); 1: Little Wilberham, Syrs. (Chandley); 2: Alace, Syrs. (A. Watt); 3: Nine ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Alace, 7 to 2 aget Mr. Tipple, and 7 to 1 aget Little Wilberham.

THE WELBROOK HOLLOW PLATE.—Lady Lucy II, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Allsopp); 1: Bank Note, Syrs. 1st (Mr. Cannon); 2: Forte, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Brown); 3: Four ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Lady Lucy II, and 7 to 1 aget Forte.

THE CLYDE SELLING PLATE.—To-morrow, Syrs. (Wingfield); 1: Peter Clarke, Syrs. (Armstrong); 2: Chilperic, aged (Harrison); 3: Seven ran. Betting: 6 to 4 aget To-morrow, 6 to 1 aget Peter Clarke, and 10 to 1 aget Chilperic.

THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' WELTER HANDICAP PLATE.—Peony, Syrs. 1st 10lb (Mr. Cannon); 1: Colours, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Fogel); 2: Ten ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Peony, 5 to 2 aget Colours, and 10 to 1 aget Bothwell.

THE PALACE SELLING PLATE.—Cunning (Gough); 1: Ramequin (Finlay); 2: Lady Sophie (Fogel); 3: Five ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget Cunning, and 10 to 1 aget Ramequin.

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THE WELBROOK NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE PLATE.—To-morrow, Syrs. 1st 6lb (Mr. Allsopp); 1: Ten ran. Betting: 5 to 4 aget To-morrow, 5 to 2 aget Peony, 5 to 1 aget Peony, and 10 to 1 aget Bothwell.

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